



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

OCT 19 2021

Dear Tribal Leader:

On September 28, 2021, I sent you a letter inviting you to consult on the U.S. Department of the Interior's (Department) implementation of the Indian Boarding School Initiative (Initiative) that Secretary Deb Haaland announced in June 2021.¹ To accommodate the Tribal Nations Summit and other commitments that have been scheduled in the interim, the Department is rescheduling two of the three consultation sessions on the Initiative:

Wednesday, November 17 (rescheduled from November 16)

1 p.m. - 5 p.m. ET

Please register in advance at:

https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJIIf-itpzKjGXFeP95IZruJJ24_RkLyPE

Thursday, November 18 (no change)

1 p.m. - 5 p.m. ET

Please register in advance at:

<https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJItd-utqjltG1E6KndFBZq0y9Dmh81TLY4>

Tuesday, November 23 (rescheduled from November 2)

1:00 p.m. -5:00 p.m. ET

Please register in advance at:

<https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJItdOutpzsoGAeuPCEBeNPj2mFoIDfdEz0>

If you already registered for the original November 2 and 16 sessions, you should have received an email regarding the rescheduling. Please feel free to register for a different session if the rescheduled date does not work for you.

We will also now be accepting written input by December 23, 2021 (extended from the original November 15, 2021 deadline) at consultation@bia.gov.

Background information that was provided in the original letter is provided here for your convenience:

The Initiative's purpose is an initial collection and review of Department documents and records, and compilation of its existing data. These are first steps in addressing Indian boarding school policies and their effects as part of the Department's report due to the Secretary by April 1, 2022.

¹ "Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative," Memorandum from the Secretary of the Interior to Assistant Secretaries, et al. (Jun. 22, 2021).

For over a century, the Bureau of Indian Affairs was involved in the operation and oversight of Indian boarding schools in the United States. As a result, the Department is uniquely positioned to assist in the effort to recover the histories of Federal Indian boarding schools.

The Department seeks to consult with Tribal governments, Alaska Native Corporations, and Native Hawaiian Organizations on key issues for inclusion in the Department's Initiative report and help lay the foundation for future sitework to protect potential burial sites and other sensitive information. To facilitate discussion during the consultations, participants are requested to address the following topics:

- Appropriate protocols on handling sensitive information in existing records;
- Ways to address cultural concerns and handling of information generated from existing records or from potential sitework activities;
- Potential repatriation of human remains, including cultural concerns and compliance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act;
- Future policy and procedure implementation to protect burial sites, locations, confidential information, and culturally sensitive information;
- Management of sites of former boarding schools;
- Privacy issues or cultural concerns to be identified as part of the Initiative; and
- Other issues the Department should address in its review.

I look forward to your input. If you have questions regarding this effort, please contact Heidi Todacheene, Senior Advisor to the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs, by email at Heidi_Todacheene@ios.doi.gov or by phone at (202) 208-7163.

Sincerely,



Bryan Newland
Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs